



Artist News

Apply Now to the COVID-19 Relief Fund for Individuals



(Left to right) Vasilis Kostas (Traditional Arts Fellow '20), James Dale, and George Lernis performing at *Crossing Customs: Immigrant Masters of Music & Dance* at the Shalin Liu Performance Center (September 2018). Photo by Matthew Muise.

[Mass Cultural Council](#) has created the [COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) to support individuals whose creative careers have been disrupted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.

Grants of \$1,000 will be available to Massachusetts individual artists and independent teaching artists/humanists/scientists who have lost income derived from their work as a direct result of COVID-19 related cancellations and closures.

The deadline to apply is April 22, 2020.

[Learn how to apply for the COVID-19 Relief Fund for Individuals.](#)

Update on Artist Fellowships and Traditional Arts Apprenticeships

Currently, Mass Cultural Council is reviewing applications for the 2020 [Artist Fellowships](#) in Choreography, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, and Painting and 2021 [Traditional Arts Apprenticeships](#). Due to Council meeting delays stemming from the COVID-19 crisis, we expect to announce results of these reviews by late June 2020. Previously, we had anticipated announcing the results by late May.

Artist Voices and Resources



Mural by Emma Leavitt of Solei Arts, photo by Erin Clark.

Mass Cultural Council believes in supporting the vital, ongoing work of individual artists. Here are some links and resources of interest to Massachusetts artists:

- On our online resource [ArtSake](#), we compile a weekly list of [opportunities for artists](#) - a way to find your next contest, artist residency, call to artists, publication, and more.
 - Find all news, resources, and opportunities for artists related to the [COVID-19 crisis](#).
 - In an audio clip, [Anna VQ Ross](#) reads her poem *Almost a Mothering* and discusses how her poetry explores our current climate of fear and apprehension.
 - Need to find or list creative space? Check out our [Creative Space Resources](#).
 - In our most recent artists' discussion, we ask, *Why is it important to you to you support other artists, in addition to your own creative practice?* Playwright **David Beardsley**, visual artist **Prilla Smith Brackett**, poet **Erica Charis-Molling**, visual artist **Emma Leavitt**, and media/installation artist **Georden West** respond. [Join the discussion](#).
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News from Our Fellows and Finalists



Laurel Sparks (Painting Fellow '04), *Betty's Revenge* (2003), photo by Susan Byrne.
The artist was scheduled to exhibit at Drive-By Projects in Watertown this month.

Our monthly [Fellows Notes](#) shares the latest news from current and past awardees from our [Artist Fellowships Program](#). This month:

- Eight past **Dramatic Writing awardees** have plays in the Boston Theater Marathon - now happening via Zoom
- Eleven past **awardees in Fiction/Creative Nonfiction and Poetry** have books named as "Must Reads" by the Massachusetts Book Awards
- **Lara Egger** selected for the Juniper Poetry Prize
- **Jane Gillooly**'s documentary to have its broadcast premiere on *America ReFramed*
- **Magdalena Gomez** launches new podcast

We also include a special online gallery to feature work by our past awardees despite the many closings due to COVID-19.

"If the pandemic has reminded us of anything recently, it's how interconnected we are."

- **Erica Charis-Molling** (Poetry Fellow '20), from the ArtSake discussion [Why Do You Support Other Artists?](#)



About Mass Cultural Council

Mass Cultural Council is a state agency supporting the arts, sciences, and humanities, to improve the quality of life in Massachusetts and its communities. It pursues its mission through a combination of grants, services, and advocacy for nonprofit cultural organizations, schools, communities, and artists.

Artists Department

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Banner image: detail of Matt Brackett (Painting Fellow '04) working on *Treasured Vessel* (2016).

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